



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Joy Hofmeister

DATE: February 23, 2017

SUBJECT: Recognition of Rebekah Hammack, Teri Kimble, Jamie Rentzel, and Moriah Widener, 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Awardees

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister recognizes and commends Rebekah Hammack, Teri Kimble, Jamie Rentzel, and Moriah Widener for being awarded the 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. This is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science.

Following an initial selection process done at the state level, a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators select the winners.

On August 22, 2016, President Obama named 213 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The Oklahoma recipients of this distinguished award were Rebekah Hammack, Teri Kimble, Jamie Rentzel, and Moriah Widener. Rebekah Hammack is a science teacher at Stillwater Middle School. Teri Kimble is a high school science teacher in Hydro-Eakly. Jamie Rentzel is a high school math teacher at Norman High School while Moriah Widener teaches at Jenks West Intermediate School.

As the Oklahoma state recipients of this award, these wonderful ladies received a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also were invited to Washington, DC this past fall for an awards ceremony, as well as educational and celebratory events, and visits with members of the previous Administration.

Since 1983, more than 4,700 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

We are excited for this excellent distinction for these 4 amazing educators. Rebekah, Teri, Jamie, and Moriah definitely serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

RG/tr

Attachment